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Mat Furr



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Office of Legislative Counsel

Washington, D. C. 20505

Telephone: 351-6121 (Code 143-6121)

18 April 1978

TO: Mr. Pat Long
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence

Dear Pat:

I am forwarding you a copy of the
13 April Washington Star article
entitled, "Headlines should be borne
out by facts" as well as the
26 February article (entitled "CIA-
Linked Author To Lecture on Hill")
to which it refers. I think that
you will find the 13 April article
enlightening.

Regards



Assistant Legislative Counsel

Attachments

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The letter below appeared in today's Washington Star.

'Headlines should be borne out by facts'

Walter Taylor's story, "CIA-Linked Author to Lecture on Hill" (*The Star*, Feb. 26), which appeared while I was on assignment in Cuba, is inaccurate and misleading in a number of important respects. It claimed that House and Senate committees were looking into the possibility that material concerning a Greek lobbyist, Elias Demetracopoulos, which appeared in "The Power Peddlers," written by Sarah Hays Trott and myself, may have been "leaked" to us by the CIA.

The book, published in February 1977, recounted an effort by the CIA and the State Department to discredit Demetracopoulos through a memorandum sent to members of Congress. However, as Taylor would have learned had he read the book about which he wrote, we also recounted the withdrawal of the memo, Assistant Secretary David Abshire's apology and, for good measure, Demetracopoulos' own denials of the memo's contents. Taylor failed to mention any of these points in his piece, although they plainly bear on the gratuitous allegation that the book was "used" by the CIA.

Similarly, if Taylor had checked with Trott or myself, which he inexplicably failed to do, he would have learned that the CIA-memo story came to us from Demetracopoulos himself, and that it was partly at his urging that we tracked down a copy of a CIA profile of him. He would also have learned that we showed our memo to Demetracopoulos at his request, and that he told us it was similar in content to the one sent to Congress. In other words, it was Demetracopoulos and not the CIA who generated this passage in our book, as part of his (apparently ongoing) feud with the agency.

Taylor's story was also misleading in his assertion that our book is being investigated by House and Senate committees. No member of Congress or congressional aide has contacted either Trott or me about "The Power Peddlers" since it appeared over a year ago. Sen. McGovern did write a letter to Sen. Inouye, chairman of the Select Intelligence Committee, in which — at Demetracopoulos' request — he mentioned our book as a possible example of CIA use of the press. However, Taylor neglected to mention that McGovern's letter was written a year ago.

I have been informed by a committee spokesman that the Demetracopoulos file was closed a few days later and that there are no present plans to reopen it. The *London Guardian* reported at the time (March 16, 1977) that the Inouye committee was probably not going to investigate cases like that of Demetracopoulos. Similarly, at Demetracopoulos' request, Rep. Edwards did write more recently to Admiral Stansfield Turner; but, as Taylor reports, Admiral Turner's response confirms that we were not briefed by the CIA.

There is, of course, no reason why reporters should not use any sources, including the CIA; but none of our information about Demetracopoulos was "leaked" to us by anyone. We had to go after it, often in order to check out his own loquacious recollections.

As Demetracopoulos explained to us, and as we recounted in our book, he often urges a member of Congress to write a letter to a government official, then announces to the press that there is a "congressional investigation" underway. Needless to say, an exchange of letters doth not an investigation make. Demetracopoulos boasted, and we reported, that he is usually able to get his material into the Evans & Novak column, the Jack Anderson column, UPI and the *Guardian*. Last year, he gave a virtually identical story to Taylor's to Evans and Novak, but Bob Novak checked it out and handled it more cautiously. (He also tried three times to check with me, but I was out of town.)

Finally, had Taylor read at least the book's dust jacket, I would probably not have appeared in his story as a "British journalist," and if he had called me, he would have learned that I was going to Cuba and therefore not going to "lecture on the Hill" at all.

In short, nothing justified the damaging, offensive and McCarthy-like flavor of *The Star's* headline. The lessons are the old ones: reporters should check, editors should check, and headlines should be borne out by facts. Taylor's piece was especially ironic, as I am just completing an article commissioned by the media magazine *More on CIA* use of the press.

Russell Warren Howe
Washington, D.C.

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The Washington Star

Sunday, February 24, 1978

CIA-Linked Author To Lecture on Hill

By Walter Taylor

Washington Star Staff Writer

The author of a book linked to alleged CIA efforts to discredit one of its critics has been invited to participate in a seminar on lobbying for members of the House and Senate.

The book, "The Power Peddlers," has come under scrutiny during the past year by the House and Senate intelligence committees. A subcommittee of the House panel, headed by Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., is looking generally at CIA efforts to use or manipulate the news media.

The full Senate committee is looking specifically into the possibility that information in the book was leaked by the CIA as part of an effort to smear Elias Demetracopoulos, a former Greek newspaperman now living in Washington.

The co-author of the book, Russell Warren Howe, a British journalist, is listed as a panelist for a day-long "Lobbying and the Law" seminar tomorrow for members of Congress.

THE SEMINAR, one of a series, is sponsored by the Library of Congress's Congressional Research Service.

Former Maryland Rep. Gilbert Gude, director of the service, said yesterday that he was not aware that Howe's book had come up in the dual congressional investigations.

"I don't know whether he was the tool of the CIA or not," but I would say his role in this seminar revolves more on the technical aspects of the law than anything he has written about the Greek gentleman," Gude said.

Allegations against the book "wouldn't necessarily impair his (Howe's) credibility in this instance," he added.

The book, published last February, has attracted attention in a variety of congressional quarters because some of its passages about Demetracopoulos are strikingly similar to the contents of a memorandum that was circulated clandestinely on Capitol Hill in 1971.

DEMETRACOPOULOS, in self-imposed exile in the United States, was a vocal opponent of the junta that controlled Greece at that time and also was highly critical of CIA and Nixon administration support of the military regime.

When Demetracopoulos discovered the existence of the memorandum, evidently based on CIA intelligence reports, the Nixon White House hastily ordered its recall and issued a written apology to the former newsman. A subsequent CIA report acknowledged that much of the material in the memorandum was false.

According to an exchange of correspondence that was forwarded to Aspin's House Intelligence subcommittee on oversight, "The Power Peddlers" contains some of the same allegations against Demetracopoulos that were contained in the discredited 1971 memorandum. Several of the passages in the book were attributed to CIA files and sources.

THE LETTERS WERE between Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., and CIA Director Stansfield Turner. In a letter to Turner last May, Edwards said that "it appears, from the book's authors' own statements, that information about Elias Demetracopoulos has been given them from CIA files and by CIA officials." Accordingly, I am requesting that you search your records and advise me regarding this matter.

Responding three months later, on Aug. 8, Turner replied that a thorough search of agency records revealed "no evidence to support the hypothesis that the CIA provided information on Mr. Demetracopoulos" to Howe and the book's co-author, Sarah Hays Trotter.